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(71) Applicant: **Heublein, Inc.**
Munson Road
Farmington Connecticut 06032(US)

(72) Inventor: **Ashmont, Robert J.**
5 Chestnut Lane
Farmington Connecticut 06032(US)
Inventor: **Bibeau, Thomas C.**
19 Oxford Lane
Windsor Connecticut 06095(US)
Inventor: **Livaich, Anthony**
62 Curtiss Street
Hartford Connecticut 06106(US)
Inventor: **McCormick, Nancy J.**
16-B Greenbriar Drive
Farmington Connecticut 06032(US)

(74) Representative: **Patentanwälte Dipl.-Ing. J.**
Richter Dipl.-Ing. F. Werdermann
Neuer Wall 10
D-2000 Hamburg 36(DE)

(54) **Alcoholic soft ice.**

(57) The invention provides a ready-to-consume, freezeable, alcoholic beverage composed of water, sugars, alcohol, flavorants and carboxymethylcellulose. The beverage can be placed in a consumer or commercial freezer to form a soft ice, which can be consumed "as is" or can be spooned into a glass to provide, with stirring, an attractive slush-type frozen cocktail.

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EXAMPLE 4

A 25° margarita was prepared as in the previous examples from the following ingredients:

25° Proof
MARGARITA

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KEY INGREDIENTS %
(by weight)

Spirits

TEQUILA & NEUTRAL SPIRITS

High Fructose Corn Syrup

Dextrose (50%)	7.1578	-	7.3451
Fructose (42%)	6.0125	-	6.1699
Maltose (1.5%)	0.2148	-	0.2203
Isomaltose (1.5%)	0.2148	-	0.2203
Higher Saccharides (5.0%)	0.7157	-	0.7345

Dry Basis (Total)

14.3156 - 14.6901

*Sodium CMC

.03411 - .03438

Citric Acid

1.7621 - 1.7722

OTHER INGREDIENTS %
(by volume)

Essential Oils

.01171

Other Flavors

N/A

PRODUCT SPECS.pH

2.8

Total Solids (°Brix)

16

Total Acidity (gm/10)

18.4

*Low viscosity, fine grind commercially available as CMC-7LF from Hercules Powder.

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This product took somewhat longer to freeze than products of the previous examples. The frozen product was coarser than those of the previous examples.

EXAMPLE 5

A 10° margarita was prepared as in the previous examples and having the following ingredients:

10° PROOF
MARGARITA

KEY INGREDIENTS %
(by weight)

SpiritsTequila & Neutral SpiritsHigh Fructose Corn Syrup

Dextrose (50%)	12.7086	-	13.0371
Fructose (42%)	10.6752	-	10.9512
Maltose (1.5%)	0.3813	-	0.3911
Isomaltose (1.5%)	0.3813	-	0.3911
Higher Saccharides (5.0%)	1.2708	-	1.3037

Dry Basis (Total)	25.4172	-	27.0742
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*Sodium CMC

.3767	-	.03788
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Citric Acid

.8074	-	.8118
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OTHER INGREDIENTS
(by volume)

Essential Oils

.01171

PRODUCT SPECS.pH

2.5

Total Solids (° Brix)

27

Total Acidity (gm/l)

9.3

*Low Viscosity, fine grind commercially available as CMC-7LF from Hercules Powder.

This product when frozen was firmer than products of the previous examples. The crystal size/texture was still smooth/fine comparable to previous examples.

The invention has been described in considerable detail with specific reference to preferred embodiments. However, variations and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as described in the foregoing specification and defined in the appended claims.

Claims

1. A ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage comprising water, sugars, alcohol, flavorants, and carboxymethylcellulose wherein the sugars comprise at least one sugar selected from the group consisting of fructose and dextrose; the beverage has a proof in the range of about 10 to about 25; the carboxymethylcellulose is present in an amount ranging from about 0.02 to about 0.1% by weight; and wherein the ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage forms a soft ice at between about 0° and about 10° F.
2. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 1 wherein the beverage has a proof ranging from about 15 to about 20.
3. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 1 and having a sugar content in the range of from about 15 to about 28° BRIX.
4. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 3 having a sugar content in the range of between 18 and about 25° BRIX.
5. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 3 wherein the sugars consist primarily of fructose and dextrose.
6. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 5 wherein the fructose and dextrose constitute at least about 75% of the sugars present in the beverage.
7. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 1 wherein carboxymethylcellulose is present in an amount ranging from about 0.025 to about 0.06% percent by weight.
8. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 7 wherein the sodium carboxymethylcellulose is a low viscosity sodium carboxymethylcellulose.
9. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 8 wherein the alcoholic beverage has a proof in the range of between about 15 and about 20.
10. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverages defined in Claim 9 wherein the alcoholic beverage has a proof in the range of 16 to 19.
11. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 3 which additionally comprises an acidulant present in an amount ranging from about 0.5 to about 2.0% by weight.
12. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 5 additionally comprising citric acid present in an amount ranging from about 0.75% to about 1.5% by weight.
13. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 2 additionally comprising one or more essential oils in an amount of less than 1% by weight.
14. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 3 wherein the carboxymethylcellulose is present in an amount ranging from about 0.025% to about 0.6% by weight.
15. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 1 and packaged in a sealed plastic container such that the beverage is shelf-stable in frozen or unfrozen form and wherein the container has a size of one liter or less.
16. The ready-to-consume alcoholic beverage defined in Claim 4 and packaged in a plastic container such that the beverage is shelf-stable in frozen or unfrozen form and wherein the container has a size of one liter or less.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 87 11 5386

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
X	FR-A-2 075 351 (GENERAL FOODS CORP.) * Claims; examples 7,8,19,20,10 *	1-16	C 12 G 3/00 A 23 G 9/04
A	DE-A-1 945 130 (MORINAGA MILK INDUSTRY CO.) * Claims; page 7, paragraph 1 *	1,7,8,14	
A	DE-A-2 823 320 (U. SCHNEIDER)		
A	US-A-4 350 712 (A. KOCHARIAN et al.)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			C 12 G A 23 G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			

Place of search
THE HAGUE

Date of completion of the search
03-02-1988

Examiner
COUCKE A.O.M.

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons
& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

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